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BOOK REVIEWS

Select Epigrams from the Greek Anthology. Edited with Revised Text, Translation, Introduction, and Notes, by J. W. MACKAIL. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1906. Pp. xi+433.

That a second edition of Mr. Mackail's book was called for is an encouraging fact and one that shows that an interest in Greek literature as literature is not yet dead; for this is a book that appeals to the lover of literature rather than to the philologist, and it is in no sense a textbook. This new edition is far from being a mere reprint. It is a careful revision. Especially is this true of the translations and of the admirable Introduction. Of the latter almost every page shows evidence of having been gone over with care, and the changes are almost without exception improvements. The style is more restrained; many statements have been modified; adjectives have been cut out, and here and there a sentence or even a paragraph; while some rearrangements and additions (e. g., a paragraph on the Anthology of Cephalas, p. 21, and another on the meanings of *ἐπίδειξις*, pp. 28 f.) make the whole clearer. The substance remains for the most part unchanged, though the paragraph dealing with the treatment of the passion of love by the tragedians, especially by Euripides, is in the new edition at once more complete and more sympathetic. The *Garland* of Meleager, formerly given (in translation only) in the Introduction, now finds its proper place at the head of the collection.

The content of the book has been very slightly changed. Ten epigrams included in the earlier edition have been omitted, while twenty new ones have been added. On this matter there can be no final verdict. Every lover of the Anthology will miss certain epigrams which he would himself have included, while there are doubtless others which he would have omitted; but the editor has shown admirable taste and judgment in the difficult task of selection. It may be worth while to add to the statement in the preface (p. viii) regarding the "exact changes between this and the earlier edition," that certain epigrams have been transferred from one section to another: e. g., those now numbered VIII. 5; VIII. 7, and X. 34 were formerly I. 5; I. 41, and IV. 24; while in V. 16 a different epigram of similar import has been substituted for the one formerly occupying that place.

The changes in text and interpretation are not numerous. *παλλομένη* has ousted *βαλλομένη* in I. 39. 2; *ἐθέλεις* has supplanted *ἐθέλει* in II. 7. 8; in II. 3. 1 *Ἀρχέλειος* (as an equivalent of *ἀρχηγέτης*) has taken the place of the gen. *Ἀρχέλεω* (used as a proper name); and in I. 29. 5 *οὐ μύοντα* has

given place to οἰδάοντα. In general the notes have suffered few changes, though there is more repression than in the former edition. Here and there a statement occurs which invites criticism (e. g. that regarding compound epithets in the note on IV. 12), but these are exceptions.

On the other hand the translations have been very carefully revised, and the alterations may be numbered by hundreds. In this difficult task Mr. Mackail has acquitted himself well. He is clear, concise, and sympathetic; and is often felicitous. Finality is of course unattainable, and if a third edition of this book is called for it will doubtless show as many alterations in phrase as this one does, when compared with its predecessor. For the most part the changes will meet with approval. In I. 13, e. g., *how bitter a sigh, mark you? he drew from the depth of his breast* is certainly an improvement on, *how bitter a sigh, mark you? he drew all up his breast*. The Greek is διὰ στήθεων ἀνηγάγερτο. In IV. 17.8 γήρως γὰρ γείτων ἐγγύθεν Ἄιδω, now well rendered, *since he who has old age for neighbor is nigh to death*, was formerly, *since old age is death's near neighbor*. In IV. 22. 6, *that strife by Maeander where the flute was vanquished*, is vastly better than, *that disastrous flute-strife by Maeander*; and such instances of verbal improvement could be cited by scores. Sometimes, however, the changes are not for the better. In I. 6. 6 Ζηνὸς λῆμα καθέλεν Ἔρως, is now rendered, *Love abated even the pride of Zeus*. Was not the former rendering more correct, *Love took captive even the mind of Zeus*? In I. 29. 2 *grants me grace to sleep for a little*, is surely no improvement on, *grants me a little grace of rest*, as a rendering of ἐλυνῶσαι μικρὰ χαριζόμενος. In I. 37. 5 γείτονες οἰκτείρουσι, σὺ δ' οἶδ' ὄναρ, simply and adequately rendered before, *The neighbors pity me, but thou not even in a dream*, has now become, *The neighbors have compassion on me, but thou knowest not even the phantom of pity*. In I. 39. 4 οὐ φθόνος κατοπτρεύειν is now rendered, *may look down ungrudgingly*, which surely perverts the meaning, plainly rendered in the earlier edition, *may look down unhidden*. In I. 50. 1 where the Greek has ὀπλίζεν, Κύπρι, τόξα, is *Take thy war-shafts, O Cypris* any improvement on, *Arm thyself, Cypris, with thy bow*? But these are points upon which judgment and taste will differ, and it may seem trivial to note them. Still, simplicity and directness are Greek virtues.

The book is well printed and both paper and type are excellent. One must regret, however, that defects in the Greek type are not rare; η and φ are very often mutilated. Misprints are not common. I have noted ξήλους for ζήλους in I. 31. 2, and conversely ξξ for ξξ in VII. 22. 5; on p. 396 Danae has been separated into two words; on p. viii, in the list of new epigrams, for I. 16, read I. 15; and in the translation of XII. 9. 5, by an unfortunate slip, *let us prink*, appears as a rendering of πίνωμεν.

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